(b) A Russian delegation visited India in September, 2005. The delegation made a presentation on Indo-Russian Company Rosoboron service to the Indian side.

(c) to (e) A US delegation visited India in September, 2005 and held discussions on the Indian Navy's proposal for acquisition of defence equipment and platforms. No agreement was concluded with the US delegation.

Sale of 30 ALH to Chile

1543. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that India is selling its indigenous built 30 Advance Light Helicopters (Dhruv) to Chile;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that it is the first and the single largest sale by the Indian Defence Establishment; and

(c) who were the other contenders for this deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Dhruv Helicopter manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has been trial evaluated, along with certain other helicopters of major manufacturers, by the Chilean authorities. However, no purchases have been made.

Special Cell for securing release of POWs

1544. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that family members of 54 soldiers believed to be in Pakistan jails since the 1965 and 1971 wars have demanded that Government set up a special cell to work on bringing them back; and

(b) the action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Government have been taking up the matter of the release of Indian Prisoners of Wars with Pakistan through diplomatic channels and during